

Delaney tip can beat that slope

By JOHN PARSONS

BOURNEMOUTH are happy with a second round FA Cup tie most other clubs would have dreaded — a visit to Wycombe's ski-slope Loakes Park.

For their confidence for the December 14 game has been lifted by inside information.

Two seasons ago a Bournemouth side containing nine first-team players visited the amateurs in a friendly. They lost 2-1... but signed Wycombe's amateur international centre-half John Delaney.

And last night 31-year-old Delaney, winner of 20 England amateur caps before taking the professional plunge at the age of 29, reassured his Bournemouth team-mates: 'If you don't worry about the Wycombe slope, it won't worry you.'

SECOND ROUND DRAW

Chesterfield v. Doncaster
Rotherham v. Northampton
Grimsby v. Bury
Hartlepool v. Port Vale or Lincoln
Stockport
or Stafford R. v. Halifax
Altrincham v. Gateshead
Bishop Auck. v. Blyth or Preston
Wigan v. Mansfield
Blackburn v. Darlington
Rochdale
or Marine v. Tranmere
Hitchin Tn. v. Hereford or
or Cambridge Utd. v. Gillingham

Bishop Stortford
or Leatherhead v. Colchester
Brighton v. Brentford
Ilford v. Southend
Wimbledon v. Swansea or
Kettering
Plymouth v. Tooting or C. Palace
Swindon v. Nuneaton Bor. or
Maidstone
Newport Co. v. Ashford or Walsall
Peterborough
or Weymouth v. Charlton
Wycombe v. Bournemouth



HARTLEY: 'Hard match.'

Loakes Park, set on a hillside overlooking the Buckinghamshire town, drops 11ft. from side to side, and there is also an appreciable slope from one goal to the other.

Bournemouth manager Trevor Hartley said: 'We know we're in for a hard match and one of the problems will be getting the players in the right attitude so far as that pitch is concerned.'

'That's where John Delaney can help us so much—and

also with his knowledge of all the Wycombe players.'

Wycombe manager Brian Lee described the tie as 'almost perfection'. He plans to watch Bournemouth against Aldershot on Saturday and seek a report on their form at Plymouth a week later from Keith Blunt, assistant manager at Plymouth and a former team-mate of Delaney at Wycombe.

If Crystal Palace overcome Tooting and Mitcham, the

second round will give Malcolm Allison a return to Plymouth, where he began his career as a Football League manager.

The reward for the winners of the Leatherhead v. Bishops Stortford replay is a home tie with Colchester.

FA CUP DRAW

Delaney isn't scared

By JACK STEGGLES

BOURNEMOUTH centre-half John Delaney became a "psychologist" yesterday when he heard that his club had been drawn away to Isthmian League champions Wycombe in the second round.

Wycombe's notorious sloping Loakes Park pitch has been a graveyard for many big names and the prospect of a visit there is enough to send shivers down the spine.

But Bournemouth were smiling bravely after Delaney assured them the pitch is not as bad as people make it out.

Nonsense

And Delaney should know what he is talking about. For he had four years with Wycombe before signing as a professional with Bournemouth at the age of thirty.

'A load of nonsense. Is talked about that slope. It's all in the mind and, in my opinion, teams who are not good enough to win there use that as the excuse,' he told me.

Another Third Division side facing an awkward assignment are Southend, who visit Isthmian League Ilford.

Ilford, with seven amateur internationals, have developed into one of the strongest sides in

SECOND ROUND

Bishop Auckland v. Blyth Spartans or
Preston
B. Stortford or
Leatherhead v. Colchester
Blackburn v. Darlington
Brighton v. Brentford
Chesterfield v. Doncaster
Grimsby v. Bury
Hartlepool v. Port Vale or
Lincoln
Hitchin Town or
Cambridge U. v. Hereford or
Gillingham
Ilford v. Southend
Newport Co. v. Ashford or Walsall
Peterborough or
Weymouth v. Charlton
Plymouth v. Tooting or
Crystal Palace
Rochdale or
Marine v. Tranmere
Rotherham v. Northampton
Altrincham v. Gateshead
Wigan v. Mansfield
Stockport or
Stafford R. v. Halifax
Swindon v. Nuneaton or
Maidstone U.
Wimbledon v. Swansea or
Kettering
Wycombe v. Bournemouth

Matches to be played on
December 14

the League. Secretary Derek York said: 'This is a marvellous draw for us because Southend is less than thirty miles from Ilford and we should get a big crowd.'

Southern League Wimbledon, who have blazed to twenty-one successive victories, scoring fifty-nine goals and conceding ten in the process, are at home to either Swansea or Kettering.

'Yes I think you can say it looks good for us,' says Wimbledon boss Allan Batsford.